

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 EURE-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05

OES-06 OMB-01 H-02 PRS-01 PA-01 AID-05 IGA-02 /079 W

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P R 011445Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5653

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ANKARA 9163

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, TU

SUBJ: TURKISH POPPY STRAW

REF: STATE 291814

EMBASSY HAS FOLOWING COMMENTS ON JACK ANDERSON
COLUMN RE OPIUM POPPY STRAW PRODUCTION AND TURKEY'S
HOLDING "A MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR BOUNTY THAT HAS GOVERNMENTS
WORRYING AND SMUGGLERS WONDERING."

A. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT 6,500 TONS OF 14,000
TON 1976 PRODUCTION HAVE PRESENTLY BEEN SOLD WITH GOOD
PROSPECTS FOR ADDITIONAL SALES. WHILE THERE HAS BEEN SOME
LOSS TO TURKISH GOVERNMENT BECAUSE OF HIGH PRICE PAID TO
FARMER, THIS LOSS HAS BEEN LESS THAN MANY ANTICIPATED.

B. IT HAS BEEN OUR UNDERSTANDING, WHICH HAS BEEN
REPEATEDLY RECONFIRMED BY DEA AND THE UN, THAT THERE IS
ESSENTIALLY LITTLE RISK OF DIVERSION OF POPPY STRAW (I.E.,
MORPHINE-BEARING PODS) INTO ILLICIT CHANNELS. TURKISH STRAW IS STORED

IN BAGS IN
LOCKED WAREHOUSES, AND, FOR EXTRACTION OF EXTREMELY
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LOW MORPHINE CONTENT PRESENT IN STRAW, PROCESSING CAN

ONLY BE DONE BY EASILY CONTROLLED LARGE ALKALOID PLANTS
RATHER THAN BY BACKYARD MORPHINE/HEROIN LABS. WE
BELIEVE THAT WHILE THERE IS ALWAYS REASON FOR CAUTION
THERE IS FAR LESS RISK OF DIVERSION INTO ILLICIT CHANNELS
THAN WOULD BE THE CASE IF THERE WERE SIGNIFICANT QUANTITIES
OF RAW OPIUM IN TURKEY.
MACOMBER

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 01 DEC 1976
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Disposition Authority: saccheem
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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